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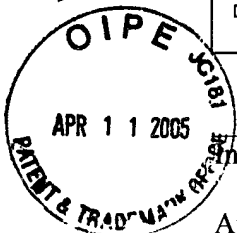
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 7, 2005

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Lisa J. Michaud)

Docket No.: 101896-0283  
(PATENT)



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: Sean P. Selover et al.

Application No.: 10/711,704

Confirmation No.: 5703

Filed: September 30, 2004

Art Unit: 3731

For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR  
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINAL  
FIXATION ELEMENT PLACEMENT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Copies of the U.S. references on the PTO/SB/08 are not enclosed. A copy of the foreign reference cited on the PTO/SB/08A is enclosed.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56 (b).

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

No fee is believed due. However, the director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 101896-0283.

Dated: April 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Lisa J. Michaud

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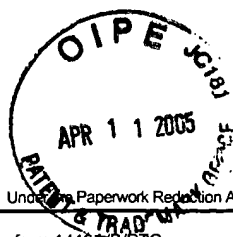
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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/711,704-Conf. #5703
				Filing Date	September 30, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Sean P. Selover
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0283

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-4,913,134	04-03-1990	Luque	
		US-6,485,491	11-26-2002	Farris et al.	
		US-5,984,923	11-16-1999	Breard	
		US-6,652,527-A1	11-25-2003	Zucherman et al.	
		US-20020138077-A1	10-12-2004	Ferree	
		US-20030083657-A1	08-31-2004	Drewry et al.	
		US-20020169448-A1	11-14-2002	Vanacker	
		US-20020116000-A1	11-25-2003	Zucherman et al.	
		US-6,554,831	04-29-2003	Rivard et al.	
		US-6,540,749-A1	04-01-2003	Schafer et al.	
		US-5,242,446	09-07-1993	Steffee et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		DE-3434807	12-19-1985	ANAPLOTIS EMMANUEL	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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